

Message Text

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SAJ-01 ERDA-05 OMB-01 EB-07 OTPE-00 NSC-05 /076 R

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MNUC NATO NPG

SUBJECT: NPG-CNI: DRAFT REPORT ON USE OF WARNING MESSAGES

REF: USNATO 4890 DTG 091725Z SEP

1. OUR INITIAL REACTION TO DRAFT REPORT IS GENERALLY FAVOR-
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ABLE. WE AGREE WITH MISSION THAT IT PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR STAFF GROUP DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT; INDEED, WE FIND THE PAPER COMMENDABLY BRIEF, REFRESHINGLY CLEAR, AND, FOR THE MOST PART, LOGICALLY PERSUASIVE.

2. WE SUPPORT MISSION'S PROPOSED APPROACH (PARA 2 REFTTEL) TO STAFF GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBJECT, IN PARTICULAR THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF PRESERVING US FLEXIBILITY RELATING TO NUCLEAR USE DECISIONS. AS FAR AS IT GOES, DRAFT DOES NOT

NOW APPEAR TO IMPINGE SIGNIFICANTLY ON THAT FLEXIBILITY. IT SEEMS TO BE MOVING TOWARD CONCLUSION, WHICH WE WOULD SUPPORT, THAT ALLIANCE CONSULTATION ON WARNING MESSAGES WOULD GENERALLY FOLLOW EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR (AND PERHAPS TAKE PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH) CONSULTATION ON USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT PAPER SUGGESTS THAT "MINIMUM" THAT COULD USEFULLY BE ACHIEVED AS RESULT OF CONSULTATION ON WARNING MESSAGE QUESTION WOULD BE FOR SYG TO REPORT TO NUCLEAR POWER VIEWS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES ON WHETHER MESSAGE SHOULD BE SENT. WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO SUGGESTIONS, WE WONDER WHETHER THIS "MINIMUM" MIGHT NOT BE MAXIMUM WHICH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT UNDULY DELAYING ACTION BY AND/OR LIMITING FLEXIBILITY OF NUCLEAR POWER.

3. WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHAT SORT OF "CNI CONSIDERATIONS AND ACTION" ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AS YET UNDRAFTED ANNEX TO THE PAPER. SINCE THESE COULD COMPRISE MAIN SUBSTANCE OF PAPER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING THE ANNEX WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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